

THE LEPIDOPTERA OF THE DRY TORTUGAS

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The Dry Tortugas occupy an unique space in the geography of the United States, being the only "Oceanic" Islands in the Gulf of Mexico. In a sense they would belong to the Florida Keys, being a continuation of the same formation, but they lie so far beyond Key West (75 miles) that casual immigration would be limited to the stronger flyers; moreover, they are so low that they most probably have been completely under water since the last glacial period. Presumably the whole fauna has come in by sporadic accidents during the last few thousand years. Naturally most of the species of the list are wide-spread, being found both on the Mainland and in Cuba, but the *Litoprosopus* may possibly be endemic,—in any case it is more like the Bahaman *L. bahamensis* Hmps. than the Florida *L. futilis*.

I owe the material to the kindness of Prof. H. H. Plough of Amherst College, who collected it in the summer of 1936. I have not noted any other records of Lepidoptera from the Islands.

LIST

Pieris monuste. Both phases of the female were taken, but not extreme.

Nathalis iole. Garden Key.

Thecla columella. Apparently the commonest butterfly to judge by the number taken by sweeping.

Plebeius filenus (*hanno*). This is the *filenus* of Bates' "Butterflies of Cuba" and the *hanno* of most U. S. collectors. Holland figures something else (which I do not know) as *filenus* from Florida. In any case the Tortugas specimens are like those from the Antilles and the commoner form from Florida.

P. ammon. A single specimen.

Lerodea eufala.

Prenes panoquinoides.

Herse cingulata.

Syntomeida epilais. Larva on oleander. I have no records of this species for the Antilles, though it ranges south to Honduras on the Mainland. These specimens are like ours from Florida.

Peridroma margaritosa.

Mocis latipes.

Anticarsia gemmatilis. These three Noctuids are typical wanderers, with tremendous ranges.

Litoprosopus bahamensis Hampson. A single specimen, damaged by ants, is indistinguishable from *bahamensis*; but is decidedly colder brown, and with a much paler hind wing than true *L. futilis* from Florida. The large Texas species that passes for *futilis* appears to be undescribed, and matches this specimen much more closely in color. New to the U. S.

Synchlora aerata. Two specimens seem definitely to be this and not the common Antillean *S. frondaria*.

Cosymbia myrtaria form *triseriata* Prout. This species is discussed by Prout in the Macrolepidoptera of the World, viii, 96 (pl. 12, fig. d6) but is not distinguished in McDunnough's Checklist, where "myrtaria" includes this, the more familiar northern *packardi* Prt. and the endemic *benjamini* Prt. from Florida. The single female is damaged, but I think is this, which Prout reports from both Florida and San Domingo.

Camptogramma stellata.

Microgonia peosinata Guenee. One female, which is surely this. It also occurs in Florida, though it is not in our lists.

Hymenia perspectalis.

Ercta vittata Fabricius. New to the U. S. I found it abundant in Porto Rico.

Sameodes cambogialis Guenée (*citrinalis* Möschler). New to the U. S. *S. citrinalis* Hmps. is a distinct species.

Pyrausta tyralis.

Trichoptilus defectalis.

Undetermined micros. represent the Crambinae, Phycitinae, Phaloniidae and Blastobasidae.